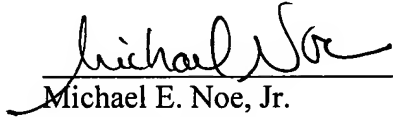


### REMARKS

Applicant appreciates the suggestions offered by the Examiner to overcome the cited objections. Accordingly, Applicant has canceled claims 5 and 12 and incorporated their language into their respective independent claims. In addition, claims 6, 7, 9, and 13 - 15 were rewritten in independent form.

It is respectfully submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance and favorable action is requested. A check in the amount of **\$440.00** is enclosed for five (5) additional independent claims in excess of the standard three (3) independent claims. No extension of time is believed to be required. However, in the event that an extension of time is required, please charge that extension fee and any other required fees to **Hitachi Global Storage Technologies' Deposit Account Number 50-2587**.

Respectfully submitted,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Michael E. Noe, Jr.  
Reg. No. 44,975  
BRACEWELL & PATTERSON, L.L.P.  
P.O. Box 61389  
Houston, Texas 77208-1389  
(512) 472-7800

ATTORNEY FOR APPLICANTS